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tion as organist, and was thus brought in contact with professional men, who were of some service in his beginning. He soon enlarged his manufacturing facilities, and was beginning to count the pianos he turned out by the week, instead of the month, when, in 1855, his factory was burned out, and he lost all his hard earnings. He did not lose his courage, however, but went to work with more earnestness than ever, and another year beheld him with increased facilities, and increasing reputation. He was no niggard in his rising popularity; he had the practical wisdom to decide that if a name was to be made worth anything, it must be made widely known. He carried out this view intelligently, and did more with his limited means than others with their thousands, until he certainly made the name of Weber known throughout the United States.

For eight or nine years he remained in his old locality, each year increasing in popularity and in success, and in 1864, when the vast expenditures of the Government made everybody flush of money, and, consequently, gave a wonderful impulse to the piano business, he bade farewell to West Broadway, and took possession of his extensive warerooms, 429 Broome street. In this splendid white marble building, which is five storeys high and one hundred and fifteen feet deep, a portion of his manufacturing was done, while the other work was carried on at two other factories, 104 Walker street and 41 Wooster street.

The steady increase of his business demanded concentration. Scattered labor is difficult to control, for in a business combining so many delicate details, the eye of the master is everywhere and constantly needed. This fact, and this other fact that the profits of his business enabled him to do it, determined Mr. Weber to erect a factory of his own, in which every department should be centered, and in which every modern appliance to the art of piano making should be combined. It was an enterprize involving the expenditure of some hundred thousand dollars; but everything is easy when the means are ready at hand, and the factory, which was commenced in July, 1866, and which we illustrate to-day, was completed in the spring of 1867, and is now in full and active operation. We subjoin a full description of the building, which is an ornament to the city, and is as compact, perfect and comprehensive as any factory in the United States.

The Weber piano-forte is a fine instrument; it combines all the improvements of the age worth adopting. It has a fine, equal quality of tone, with power, sweetness and resonance, and has a delicate and satisfying touch, both as to power and promptness. The workmanship is faithful, both as to what

is seen and what is not seen, which is a point of excellence that cannot be too strongly recommended. The best professors of the country have volunteered the most flattering testimonials of the superior excellence of the Weber pianofortes, and the two principal Musical Conservatories of the city—the National, of which George F. Bristow is the Principal, and Edward Mollenhauer's Conservatories in New York and Brooklyn, have also adopted the Weber pianos, exclusively. These are flattering evidences of the estimation in which these instruments are held, but Mr. Weber has far more substantial evidence of approval in the increasing patronage bestowed upon him by the public, which compels him constantly to increase his facilities for manufacturing, in order to meet the demand for his pianos. It is generally conceded that Mr. Weber's musical knowledge, combined with his mechanical skill, has added materially to the excellence of his industry.

Mr. Albert Weber is a representative man. While other successful firms have presented the favorable combination of father and sons working together for the common interest, he commenced alone, worked up alone, and remains to-day alone, his success the work of his own unassisted hands and active brain. It will be admitted then, we think, that his position is exceptional, and that he has achieved, single-handed, as much as others in powerful combination have achieved and boast about. Personally Mr. Weber is very popular. He has an unfailing stock of good humor, untamable animal spirits, ready wit, and a genial manner. He is a great worker—late or early is the same to him if it is necessary; but he has the happy faculty of never appearing to work at all. The same qualities which secured his first successes distinguish him still, and it may be safely inferred that his future will sustain his past, and that Albert Weber, the manufacturer, will carry out the design of Albert Weber, the apprentice, for already he is accounted one of the few leading manufacturers of this country.

#### WEBER'S NEW PIANO MANUFACTORY.

The factory is a noble building, situated on the north-east corner of Seventh avenue and Seventeenth street. It presents a clear frontage of one hundred and fifty feet, embracing Nos. 97 and 99 Seventh avenue, and Nos. 123, 125 and 127 Seventeenth street. The exterior is in the modern Italian style of architecture, with pediments on both fronts, and white marble trimmings. It is five storeys high, with finished basement. It has a clean, bold and imposing appearance, and stands out with its tall flag-staff, the most commanding object in the whole locality. It is constructed in the most solid and permanent manner, with heavy timbers, yellow

pine girders, and strong posts, and with walls substantial enough to stand a short siege.

The form of the factory is that of a capital L, so that the greatest possible amount of light is obtained in all parts of the building, and in point of light we know no similar factory equal to it. The windows are built up so high, that the sill is flush with the men's benches, and thus no particle of light is lost.

In the centre yard there is a boiler of sixty horse power, built by the Delamater Iron-works, which supplies heat and motive power for the varied and novel machinery throughout the building.

The Basement floor, with twenty-four inch walls contains the Engine room, with a model engine of forty horse power, which will prove one of the most interesting portions of this busy factory. This room also contains Woodward's steam fire pump and heating apparatus. On this floor is also situated the Drying room, occupying an area of forty feet square, with the height of ten feet. It contains about 3,000 feet of steam-pipe, capable of raising the temperature to 180 Fahrenheit, in eight minutes. The floor is built of pebble stones and cement, and flagged with two inch flagging. Six inches from the floor is the net-work of pipes for heating purposes, and six inches above that on iron

rests the wood for seasoning.

Perfect security from fire seems to have been obtained by this arrangement; but should such an improbable thing take place, a hose from the steam-pump, as also a pipe direct from the boiler, leads into the room, by which it can be filled in two minutes with live steam, so as to smother it completely. The Drying room has been aptly called the piano-makers' Paradise, although its very excessive heat might suggest the opposite locality, because upon the proper seasoning of the material depends the durability of this work—that well done, there is no splitting or warping in pianos, points in fact which distinguish good instruments from the common, cheap things standing upon four legs and misnamed piano-fortes. The Veneer room leads out of the Engine room, and contains thousands of feet, and scores of different logs, which in course of time will appear on finished instruments, and delight the eye by their exquisite grain and brilliant polish.

On the Basement-floor we also find an immense room in which is contained all the heavy machinery, such as sawing machines of various sizes and patterns, planing, turning and hoisting machines, which keep up a perpetual hum, delightful to the ear of the prosperous manufacturer.

The first, or ground floor, has a height of thirteen feet, contains the business office, the

store room, in which are all the small articles used in the construction of a piano, such as ivory, hardware, keys, cloths, hammers, felt, action, &c., and the final regulating room when the piano passes through the hands of the Superintendent, preparatory to its being removed to the Warerooms.

The Second floor accommodates several departments, such as the finishers, the action regulators, and the fly-finishers.

The Third floor accommodates the sound-board makers, the carvers, the key makers and the top makers.

The Fourth floor is entirely devoted to the making of the cases, and it is here where the visitor can learn how strongly good pianos are constructed.

The Fifth floor is the Varnishing room, where hundreds of cases placed in military array, by turns, receive the numerous coats of varnish necessary to achieve the brilliant polish, and to bring out the rich and varied colors of the rosewood.

Each floor has its separate water tanks communicating with the steam pump, with hose attached, ready for instant use in case of accident. The windows swing on centre pivots, so that in summer every stray breeze finds its way in, to the special delectation of those who live by the "sweat of their brow." A special and efficient system of ventilation for the winter time has been provided, so that the men can work with pleasure even in the high temperature of a piano manufactory. There is not a spark of fire to be seen in the whole building, it being heated throughout by steam, and the boiler being detached from the main structure.

The roof, which is as highly finished as the finest piano-forte, has its uses, for there the varnished tops are dried by sun and air. From it the whole panorama of New York and its vicinity can be observed, and the sight is really magnificent.

There is not of its class a more complete manufactory in the United States, for in planning out its details Mr. Weber brought to bear the practical experience of a lifetime. Nothing has been omitted necessary to insure the utmost rapidity of construction, consistent with thoroughness of manufacture. After a most careful examination, we can safely say that not one thing has been omitted that keen foresight could suggest or money purchase. No expense has been spared. Cheapness did not come into the calculation; but the best of everything was procured, regardless of the cost. Over one hundred workmen are employed, but light and space are so abundant that that number could be duplicated, and probably will be before the end of the year, without inconvenience. Mr. Louis Bürger is the Architect, and he has done his work well. The cost of the building, with its various machinery,

Engine apparatus, &c., will exceed, we understand, one hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. Albert Weber may well be proud of this noble structure, for it has been raised by his own means, and stands forward as the legitimate result of industry wisely and ably directed, of enterprise sustained by skill, of determination to be in the very first rank, and of energy which neither opposition, detraction nor business difficulties could weaken or depress. We cordially wish Mr. Weber a continuance of that remarkable success, which his skill and perseverance have commanded up to the present moment, and which have built up a house which promises to stand side by side with its great rivals.

THE PARIS CORRESPONDENT AND CO-EDITOR OF THEODORE HAGEN'S N. Y. WEEKLY REVIEW.

It is difficult to separate the editor of the above-named not over-clean sheet, from his correspondent and co-editor, that very dirty and small rascal, E. R., but for charity's sake, we will admit a difference in favor of the editor, and allow Webster to characterize and define the correspondent and co-editor, thus:—

"LOUSE, n; pl. lice, (Sax. lus, pl. lys; D. luis; G. laus; Sw. and Dan. lus.)

"The popular name of a genus of parasitic insects, termed *Pediculus*, with a flattened body, divided into eleven or twelve segments, to three of which is attached a pair of legs, which are short, and terminated by a stout nail or two opposing hooks, which enable these animals to cling with great facility. The mouth consists of a small, tubular protuberance, situated at the anterior extremity of the head, in the form of a snout, and containing a sucker when at rest. Their eggs are termed *nits* in English. Two species infest the bodies of men. Different animals are infested with different species."

We doubt if the most earnest Websterian will brag much about the grammar of the above quotation, but it nevertheless fully describes that very small rascal, E. R. It says the thing has eleven or twelve segments, which are typical of the numerous ways he would swear, if the emergencies of the house who owns him called for such noble devotion, while the six hooks are typical of his clinging, parasitical nature. There is a trifling discrepancy about the mouth, for the description says, that only when at rest it is a "sucker." With regard to the eggs, we can only hope that in this case, none will be laid, for it would be horrible if the race were to be perpetuated.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17, 1867.

EDITOR OF WATSON'S ART JOURNAL:

The influence of music upon the mind has never, perhaps, been more strikingly made

manifest than it was at the exhibition of a new organ, built by Messrs. Jardine & Son of your city, at St. Elizabeth's, a princely and magnificent building, erected by the United States government for a hospital for the insane, situated on the high ground opposite the Navy Yard, and about three miles distant southeast from the city of Washington. On Tuesday last, Dr. Nichols, the Superintendent of the Establishment, together with the faculty, and several friends, with about two hundred and fifty patients, listened to the organ for the first time. The performer was Dr. J. G. Barnett, of Hartford, Conn. The effect of the music upon some of the patients was indeed marvellous, and which was plainly made manifest by the expression of delight which beamed forth from the eye, while in others, the silent tear betrayed the emotion, as familiar strains floated over the senses, which sorrow, disease, or sickness had caused to be demented. Amongst the number present were some of the worst patients in the hospital, but the music from the organ had the effect of soothing the mind, and subduing the restlessness and irritability that peculiarly belongs to this class of unfortunates. They listened (with hardly an exception) in the most attentive manner, and at the conclusion of the different pieces they manifested their delight in smiles and grateful recognition for the pleasure they had received.

The organ is a very rich and sweet-toned instrument, and reflects great credit upon the skill of the builders, Messrs. Jardine. Dr. Barnett brought out its varied beauties with fine effect, and at the conclusion received a vote of thanks, which was proposed by Dr. Nichols, and seconded by Dr. Gurley, and unanimously adopted by all present. The programme of the evening was varied by some good singing from Miss Ewer and Mr. Charles Ewer, and also by the performance by Mr. Coyle and Mr. Dudley Jardine and two of the patients of the hospital.

A. L. F.

GERMAN AND ITALIAN COMPOSERS.—The well-known saying of Carl Maria von Weber: "I compose as God wills, and Rossini composes as the public wills," characterizes admirably the artistic tendencies of most German and Italian operatic composers. The German operatic composer not unfrequently ignores, to his own disadvantage, both singers and public; he likes to give himself up entirely to his task, in which his own individuality is completely merged, and writes in the fond belief that his work is destined to last for ever. The Italian composer, on the other hand, writes in the first place for certain singers; he does not think of a work of art lasting for ever; he pays court to the exigencies of the day and of fashion, and takes his audiences as he generally finds them. I honor the operatic composer, who, renouncing outward success, has only an ideal circle of hearers in his mind; but I do not depreciate the value of the artist who thinks of the actual operatic public. That great genius, and worldly-wise man, Mozart, did both; he took into account singers and public, and created works of imperishable beauty. His dramatic works will, at any rate, endure as long as feeling for melodic beauty and musical characterization exists in the world of art. However people may of late striven to limit such characterization, it can never be destroyed.—*Berlin Echo*.